

Text version of Brenda Battat's Power Point Presentation
No graphics in either version.

Slide 1

FCC VoIP Solutions Summit
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Brenda Battat M.S.
Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

Slide 2

The Need

- 54 m Americans with disabilities (1 out of 5)
- 1 trillion \$ disposable income
- Hearing Loss the largest disability
- 28 m in U.S (1 in ten of population)
- People losing their hearing earlier
- One baby boomer every 7 seconds turns 50

Slide 3

VoIP Opportunities

- Convergence of telephony, video and data
- Redundancy becomes a reality
- Phone service can be cheap

Slide 4

Features that People who are Hard of Hearing Need for Access

- Clear, strong, high quality signal for speech intelligibility
- Adequate volume control easily manipulated
- Telecoil compatibility without interference
- Simultaneous voice and text display with adjustable text sizes
- Audio output jack with sufficient power for neck loop, headset, or other couplers for two-ear listening

Slide 5

Features - Continued

- High quality video optimized for speech reading (30 frames per second, or faster)
- Simultaneous video and audio to combine speech reading and audio signal
- Ability to add text to voice call in midstream of incoming calls

- Ability to initiate three-way calling at any time, for both incoming and outgoing calls

Slide 6

Features - Continued

- Emergency services made accessible in realtime through video, voice, and text
- Ability to connect Internet relay services to the call at any time
- Compatibility with user's own speech recognition software (enable hearing callers to use their own speech recognition software to transcribe their speech)

Slide 7

Barriers to Access

- Existing hardware not accessible
- Lax enforcement of telecommunications laws
- Uncertainty where VoIP fits in the telecommunications structure
- Need for standards to meet the access goals

Slide 8

Recommendations

- Capitalize on inherent and unique features of VoIP
- Wipe the telecommunications slate clean
- Remain committed to public interest objectives
- E911 be a major focus